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A
SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
CASE
OF THE
Royal African Company
OF
ENGLAND.



L O N D O N :

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LONDON:



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SUPPLEMENT

To the CASE of the
Royal African Company of *England*.

WHEN the *Company's Case* was published, it was thought there would have been no occasion to say any thing more on the subject. The Company are possess'd of a considerable number of *Forts* and *Castles* in *Africa*, which have cost them great Sums of money in purchasing, erecting, and maintaining; and which are, as they conceive, *indispensibly necessary* to be kept up for the preservation of the Trade to *Africa* to this Kingdom. And the Question was, *How this might be done in the most just and equal manner, and with the least Expence and Inconveniency?*

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FROM a due and impartial consideration of the state and condition of the Trade, the Company did apprehend, that to lay any *Duty* or *Burden* on the same for that purpose, might be of ill consequence to the *British Colonies* and *Plantations*, and consequently to the *Trade of this Kingdom in general*.

THE Company did farther apprehend, that if they had offered to *sell* their *Forts* and *Castles* to the *Government*, that the *Consideration* which they might justly insist upon for their *Right* and *Property* in them, would have amounted to *so great a Sum*, and that the charges of keeping them in future, upon the foot that other Garisons are kept, would have been found so *expensive*, that very great *Difficulties* and *Objections* would have been raised against such a *Proposal*.

THEY did therefore conceive, that the most proper way would be to propose that the *Trade* to the Coast of *Africa* for *Negroes*, &c. should be left *intirely free and open to the separate Traders*, as it is and has been for many years past: That the Company should apply themselves to *the discovery and improvement of an Inland Trade*, which can never be done to any purpose, but by the means of a *trading Company*; and that Application should be made to *Parliament*, to take the State of the said Trade into their consideration, that so they might make such *Provision* for enabling the Company

pany to keep their said *Forts* and *Castles* in a *defensible condition*, for the *benefit and protection* of the *Trade in general*, as they, in their wisdom, should think fit.

To such a *Scheme* as this, it was hard to guess from what quarter any *Opposition* could arise. *Opposition*, however, it has met with; the *Grounds* and *Reasons* whereof being contained in a Paper printed and dispersed about the Town, and intitled, *The State of the British Trade to the Coast of Africa consider'd*, all that remains now to be done, is, only to make some proper *Animadversions* on the *Allegations* contained therein, for the information and satisfaction of those who may otherwise be misled by them.

ALLEGATION I.

The Trade to the Coast of Africa was always a free Trade, carried on by private Merchants, &c. until the Year 1662.

ANSWER.

THEY who assert this, discover nothing but their own gross Ignorance in the *History* of this *Trade*. The first *English* Merchants that ever carried on any *lawful Trade* to the Coast of *Africa*, were incorporated for that purpose by Queen *Elizabeth*, Anno 1588. King *James I.* erected another Com-

pany, called, *The Company of Adventurers of London trading to Africa*, Anno 1618. And King *Charles I.* established a *third Company*, Anno 1632. whereof *Sir Nicholas Crisp* was but one amongst a great many: All which Companies had the Care and Management of the Trade to *Africa* committed to them; and the last of them continued in being till about the year 1662. From which time to the year 1672, the same was under the Care of *the Company of Royal Adventurers of England trading into Africa*: And from the year 1672 to this day, it has been and continued under the Care and Protection of the present **ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY OF ENGLAND.**

ALLEGATION II.

The Company of Royal Adventurers to Africa possessed themselves of the Factories of their Predecessors, but never paid the Proprietors for the same.

ANSWER.

KING Charles I. granted the *Lands, Trade, and Factories in Africa* to a great number of persons (whereof *Sir Nicholas Crisp* was one) only for a *certain term of years*; which being *expired* and *determined*, before the *day of the date* of the *new Charter* granted to *the Company of Royal Adventurers*, the said *Lands, Trade, and Factories*

ries REVERTED to the *Crown*: Whereupon King *Charles II.* did, as he *lawfully* might, give and grant the same to the said *Company of Royal Adventurers*, without any injury to the former *Proprietors*.

ALLEGATION III.

Upon the Establishment of the present *Company* in the Year 1670, the *Crown* reserved to itself the Right and Title to the Lands and *Factories*, &c. in *Africa*.

A N S W E R.

THE present *Company* was established in the year 1672. and the King by his *Royal Charter* gave and granted unto them *all and singular the Lands, Countries, &c. in Africa*, for and during the Term of *One thousand Years*, without any other *Reservation*, save that of the *Sovereign Right, Power, and Dominion over them*: which no ways interferes with the *Property* which the *Company* claims in them.

ALLEGATION IV.

The *Executors* of *Sir Nicholas Crisp* laid Claim to the *Company's Factories* in *Africa*, and made good the same at the Bar of the *House of Commons*, at one of the Hearings in 1709, or 1710.

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A N S W E R.

THIS is answered in part already. The Term granted to Sir *Nicholas Crisp* and Company being *expired and determined* in 1662, he could not after that claim any *Right* or *Title* to any of the *Forts* or *Factories* in *Africa*: But if he could have made out any claim to them, it ought to have been against *the Company of Royal Adventurers of England trading into Africa*, which it does not appear that he ever made; but that on the contrary, he was and continued a Member of that Company to the time of their *Dissolution* in 1672. and was one of the Parties that consented to the *surrendring* of their *Charter*, and *transferring* all their *Estate* in *Africa*, and elsewhere, to the *present Company*, for and in consideration of the Sum of 34,000 *l.* Which was accordingly paid unto them. It is true that in the Year 1696, Sir *Nicholas Crisp*, Heir and Residuary Legatee to his Father, presented a Petition to the House of Commons, setting forth a sort of a claim on the *African Company*, which was then rejected; and about a year after the Son of this Sir *Nicholas* presented another Petition to the House of Commons, praying that the *present African Company*, or the *Traders to Africa*, might make some Compensation to him for the charges which his Grandfather, as he pretended, had been at in building a Castle at *Cormantine*, (now, and ever since the year 1665, in the possession of the *Dutch*.) Whereupon the Petitioner and his Council were both

2 April, 1696.

19 March,
1697.

both heard at the Bar of the House, 1698. 2 May, 1698. But not being able to support the Allegations of the said Petition, the Bill then depending in the House for settling the Trade to *Africa*, and granting the Duty of Ten *per Cent.* passed, without taking any notice of him, or his claim; which is an evident proof that the House were then satisfied that he had really no Right at all to what he pretended.

ALLEGATION V.

In the Year 1698 the chief Manager for the then separate Traders, unknown to his Brethren, was prevailed upon by the Company to betray their Cause to their Adversaries, for a Bribe of a thousand Guineas; and so of his own head he proposed a Duty to be laid on the Trade for thirteen years, &c. which passing into a Law, became so heavy a Burden on the Trade, during the continuance thereof, that the Dutch separate Traders, during all that Time, ran away with three parts of the African Trade.

A N S W E R.

Who this chief Manager was who betrayed his Brethren, is not said; nor, were it true, is at all material to the matter now in question; since it is not

Preamble to
the Act for set-
tling the Trade
to Africa,
9th & 10th Will. 3.

not to be supposed that any of their Managers, not even the Writer of the Considerations himself, with a much greater Bribe in his pocket, could have in the least influenced or bias'd the two Houses of Parliament to pass any unreasonable Law. The reasons which the Parliament themselves gave for passing that Act, are still upon Record, and such as will justify their proceedings therein to all posterity, viz. *Whereas the Trade to Africa is highly beneficial and advantageous to this Kingdom, and to the Plantations and Colonies thereunto belonging: And whereas FORTS and CASTLES are UNDOUBTEDLY NECESSARY for the preservation and well-carrying-on the said Trade: And whereas the FORTS and CASTLES now on the said Coast of Africa, have been and now are maintained at the SOLE COST and CHARGE of the present ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY OF ENGLAND: Towards which charge it is MOST REASONABLE that all persons trading to such parts of the said Coast of Africa as are herein after limited and appointed, should CONTRIBUTE: Be it therefore enacted, &c.* These were the Reasons for passing that Act; Reasons founded upon Truth; agreeable to the everlasting Rules of Justice and Equity, and worthy of a *British* Legislature: And to insinuate that the high and honourable Court of Parliament could be in any degree influenced by any other Motives, is a Crime of so heinous a nature, that it is to be hoped there is not another Man in the Kingdom, besides the Author of these Considerations, that can harbour such a thought; and
much

much less that would presume to let such a thing drop from his Pen. But if the Legislature of *Britain* cannot always stand fair in his opinion, it is, surely, the less to be wonder'd, that the Distressed *African* Company cannot escape the *Virulence* of his *Calumny*.

As for the *Dutch* Separate Traders running away with three parts of the *African* Trade, they who have seen and perused the several *Octroys*, or *Grants*, which the *States General* have, from time to time, published for the *Management* and *Regulation* of the Trade of their Subjects to those parts, know for certain, that the *Dutch West-India Company* are the *sole Proprietors of the Trade to Africa*, and that all others, their Subjects, are *expressly prohibited from trading to any place, or places, within the Limits of their Grant*, under the penalty of forfeiting their *Ships* and *Goods*, or the *Value* of them to the said Company.

THERE has, indeed, been several *Dutch Interlopers*, or *unlawful Traders*, who, for the *Lucre* of *Gain*, have often ventured to break in upon that Company's *Rights*, and to carry on a *clandestine* Trade to the Coast of *Africa*; but the Trade which they have chiefly driven, has been for *Gold*, *Elephants Teeth*, and other Commodities, proper for the *Markets* in *Europe*; but as for *SLAVES*, it was impossible they could trade for any quantity of them; because there was not any considerable *Mar-*

ket in America where they could carry them to, without running the risque of having them seiz'd and confiscated, and thereby losing their whole Adventure.

ALLEGATION VI.

Since the Expiration of the Ten-per-Cent. Act, the Trade to Africa hath increased three or four times more than ever it was before.

A N S W E R.

IT is admitted that the Trade to *Africa* has increased very considerably since the expiration of the said Act: And it is as true, that the same is capable of being still more and more enlarged and improved, to the very great *Benefit* and *Advantage* of this Kingdom; nor does the *Company* desire to lay any obstacle in the way of the Private Traders to hinder them from contributing all that lies in their power thereto. But all this notwithstanding, the *Company* hope they may be allow'd to ask, Who the *Nation* is most beholden to for the *late Increase* of this Trade? To the *Company*, or to the *separate Traders*? To the *Company*, who laid the *Foundation* of this Trade; who recovered it out of the hands of *Foreigners*, when it was in a manner *wholly lost*, and our *Ships* liable to be taken and confiscated on all parts of the Coast, from one end thereof to the other, and who have, at their own sole Cost and Charge purchased and built, and, for near sixty years past, kept up and maintained

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a considerable number of Forts and Castles for the security and preservation thereof? Or the Private Traders, who would not venture one Shilling for the Recovery of the same, nor be concerned therein until the Company had put it out of all danger, who have built only upon the Foundation which the Company had laid at their own very great Hazard and Expence, and who have traded for many years past, to all parts of the Coast of Africa, as freely and openly as the Company themselves, without paying or contributing any thing to the Charges and Expences necessarily required for the preservation of the whole? Nor will it suffice in answer to this, to say, that the Company's Trade of late years has been small, in comparison of that of the private Traders: For, if the Duty of 10 per Cent. (which yet did not amount to one half of the Company's Charge) was so heavy a Burden upon the private Traders, as to discourage them from trading, as the Considerer says it was; is it to be wonder'd, that since that Burden has been removed so long from their shoulders, and lain doubly upon the Company, that the latter should decline in their Affairs, and that the Trade of the private Merchants should increase and flourish?

ALLEGATION VII.

The Company's Forts and Castles in Africa, are nothing but Thatch'd Houses, and Mud Walls; Places of no Defence; and consequently of no manner of Value.

A N S W E R.

THERE are above *twenty living Witnesses* now in *London*, who are able and ready to prove, that the Company's *Forts and Castles* in the *River Gambia*, and on the *Gold Coast*, are all well and strongly built with *Stone or Brick*, covered in with *Lead or Terras*, well provided with *Warehouses, Magazines, Store-Rooms*, and all other proper and necessary *Apartments and Conveniencies* for the Company's *Servants*, *sufficiently fortified and furnished* with a *proportionable number of heavy Cannon* in each, and *Ammunition* fuitable: And, in a word, that they are as *good* and as *strong* as *any* belonging to any other *Nation*, and in all respects sufficient to defend themselves against any *Power* that can come to attack them in those parts. And as for the Company's *Fort at Whydah*, which is the only one that is built of *Mud*, and covered with *Thatch*, there being no *Stone* to be had in that Country, the *Strength* and *Use* thereof may be judged from hence, That the Company's late Chief there defended the same very
lately

lately with a *handful of Men*, against an *Army of 20,000 Blacks*, who came and attacked the same. And as for the *Number of Men* requisite for their *Defence*, if they are not so well manned and otherwise provided as they ought to be, the Company is no ways to blame for the same: They have, however, at this very time, about 200 *White Men* and 700 *Black Servants* in their *actual and constant Pay*; besides fundry small *Vessels*, which they are obliged to keep for carrying *Timber, Oyster-Shells, Lime*, and other *Materials*, for keeping them in *good Repair*. The *Charges* of all which, even in the Company's present low condition, has at no time amounted to so little as 10,000 *l. per Annum*: notwithstanding what some have been pleased to let fall, as if they might all be kept for less than 2000 *l. per Annum*.

As for the Value of these *Forts and Castles*, it is hard to say precisely what it may be. If they were to be valued according to their *Usefulness and Importance to this Nation*, who will take upon himself to say, how great the Value of them may be? If they were to be valued according to what they have cost the Company for near sixty years past, it would certainly amount to a *Million of Money, or more*. In the year 1713. the *Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations* had a Proposal before them from the King of *Prussia*, for selling to this Nation the *Brandenburg Fort at Cape Three-Points*, and some other places, for the
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Sum of 200,000 Crowns. In the year 1718 the French Senegal Company sold all their Rights, Concessions, Privileges, Forts, Factories, and Settlements, to the New Company then lately established at Paris, for the Sum of 1,600,000 Livres. And if those places were worth so much, certain it is that the Royal African Company's Forts, Castles, Rights, and Privileges in Africa, are ten times more valuable. In the year 1709 the Company, pursuant to an Order to that purpose, laid before the House of Commons a distinct Valuation of their several Forts, Castles, Possessions, Guns, Ammunition, Canoe-Men, Castle-Slaves, &c. in Africa, amounting in the whole to the Sum of 276,194 *l.* And if any Person should still look upon that as too great a Sum, it may be observed that the Company has kept them ever since for the benefit of the Publick, and expended on that account about 300,000 *l.* more.

A L L E G A T I O N VIII.

In the Year 1713 the House of Commons passed a Bill for a free and open Trade, and sent it up to the Lords, without Regard to Land Factories or Settlements.

A N S W E R.

In the Year 1693 the Consideration of the Trade to Africa being referred to a Committee; they reported their Opinion to the House as follows, viz.
That

Ven. March 2.
1694.

That Forts and Castles are necessary for carrying on the Trade to Africa; and that the Trade to Africa will be best carried on for the Advantage of England in a Joint Stock. In the year 1694 the Consideration of the said Trade being again referr'd to a Committee, they likewise reported it as their Opinion Jov. Feb. 14. to the House, *That Forts and Castles are necessary for carrying on and preserving the Trade to Africa to this Nation; and that the same will be best carried on to the Benefit of this Nation, and the English Plantations in America, by a Joint Stock.* In the year 1698. when the Trade to Africa was laid open by Act of Parliament, the whole Legislature declar'd, *That Forts and Castles are undoubtedly necessary for the Preservation and well-carrying on the said Trade.* Upon the Expiration of the said Act, in 1712 it was again resolv'd, *That for* Lun. March 31. 1712. *the preserving, better carrying on, and improving the Trade to Africa, it is necessary that Forts and Castles be maintained and ENLARGED on that Coast, and that the Charge of maintaining the said Forts and Settlements be born out of the said Trade.* And as for the Bill which passed in the House of Commons, Anno 1713. it was founded upon this Resolution of the House, viz. *That the Trade to Africa ought to be free and open to all her Majesty's Subjects of Great Britain, and the Plantations, under such proper Regulations as shall subject the Trade to Duties, for maintaining the Forts and Settlements on the Coast of Africa.* From all which, two Things demonstrably appear, viz. *That the House of Commons have al-*
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ways shewn great Regard for the Company's Forts and Settlements in Africa; and that what the Considerer asserts, as if the House had passed a Bill in 1713 without regard to them, is, to say no worse of it, a gross and notorious Mistake.

ALLEGATION IX.

The Company's Forts and Castles in Africa were kept for eight or nine Years, from the Year 1712, to the Year 1720, at little or no Expence to the Company.

ANSWER.

THE Company can produce authentick Accounts to prove that from Midsummer 1712, to Midsummer 1720. the Charges of their Forts and Castles on the Gold Coast, and at Whydah only, amounted to 100,000 l. or upwards. Nor did they make so much as one Call on their Proprietors during all that time.

ALLEGATION X.

In the Year 1720 the Company raised 4 or 500,000 l. on their Proprietors, which was all lost, and occasion'd the Ruin of many Families.

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A N S W E R.

As for the Money which was raised in the year 1720, it was applied to the payment of the Company's *Debts*, to the making satisfaction to the old Proprietors, for parting with a *Share* of their *Interest* in the *Trade* to the new Subscribers, and to the carrying on their *Trade* in the best manner they could for the future ; and all that they lost that year by their Loan, or otherwise, amounted only to about 100,000 *l.* which considering those Times, was but a trifling Sum. But as for any other *Losses* which *Private Persons* might sustain in that year by the *Wicked Practices* of *Stock-Jobbers*, it is well known that the *African Company* were not the *Projectors* of that *Destructive Scheme* upon which they were all grounded, and that therefore they are in no sort answerable for any of the *Mischievous Consequences* thereof.

A L L E G A T I O N XI.

The Reason of the Company's present Application to Parliament, is to get 20,000 *l.* a Year, or a Fund to raise 500,000 *l.* upon ; and thereby to promote *Stock-Jobbing* once more, and to ruin many young and misguided Persons, &c.

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ABOUT three years ago the *Number of Shares* in the *Company's Stock* was *very large*, and the *Price* of them at Market *very low*, which gave an opportunity to *Jobbers* to run the Stock *up or down*, as they thought fit, 20, 30, 40, and 50 *per Cent.* in a very short time. And therefore for putting a stop to such *vile practices*, the Company came to a Resolution to reduce *Eight of the then Shares* (which sold then from 8*l.* to 12*l.* each) into *one*; that by making the *Price* proportionably heavier, they might discourage such scandalous practices; which was accordingly put in *execution*. And it may be affirm'd, with great Truth, that there is more done every day in the week by way of *Jobbing* in every other Stock in *Exchange-Alley*, than has been transacted in *African Stock* in any one Year since that Reduction was made. And what the Company could do more, to shew their disapprobation of *Stock-Jobbing*, is hard to say.

As for what is alledged farther, That the Company apply now for 20,000 *l.* a year, or a *Fund* to raise 500,000 *l.* upon, it is a *gross* and *notorious Falshood*. The Company never did, nor never thought of applying to Parliament for *one Penny* of Money, by way of a *Fund* for raising Money upon it, or by way of *Addition* to their *Trading Stock*. They are *possessed* of a considerable Number of *Forts* and *Castles* in *Africa*, which they conceive
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are necessary for the *Preservation* of that whole *Trade*. The said *Trade* is and has been for many *Years* past free and open to all others His Majesty's *Subjects*, and they have reaped the whole *Benefit* thereof; and on the other Hand, the *Company* are now, and have been for many *Years* past, at the sole Charge of keeping and maintaining the said *Forts* and *Castles*: And this has proved such a *Burden* upon the *Company*, and puts them upon such an *unequal Foot*, in respect of all other private *Traders*, that they apprehended they might with good *Reason* apply to *Parliament* for some *Relief*: But as for the *Quantum*, or the *Modus*, they did not presume to prescribe. And should the *Parliament* think fit to ease them of the said burden, by granting them relief in any shape, they will thankfully accept the same, and submit to whatever *Regulations*, *Restrictions*, or *Provisō's*, shall be thought most proper for preventing the *Misapplication* of any part thereof by the *Company*. But how this can be called applying to *Parliament* for a Fund of 20,000 *l. per Annum*, to raise 500,000 *l.* upon, is left for the Considerer to explain.

ALLEGATION. XII.

The *Company's* chief *Attention* has been for many *Years* past, to oppress the *Private Traders*, and ruin their *Voyages* by all ways imaginable, &c.

A N S W E R.

THIS is so far from being true, That the Company have constantly protected and assisted the *Private Traders*, as often as they have had occasion to apply to any of their *Forts* and *Castles* in *Africa* for that purpose : As happened but last year to Capt. *James Murrel*, Master of the *Clare Galley*, belonging to *London*; who when his Negroes rose upon him, and ran his Ship ashore, took *Sanctuary* at *Cape-Coast Castle*, where he was *kindly received* and entertained while he stayed, and had his Passage to *London* given him *gratis* in one of the Company's own Ships : And at *Whydah*, during the late Wars in that Country, where Capt. *Blincoe*, Master of the *Squirrel*, belonging to *London*, and Capt *Kettle*, Master of the *City of London*, in the Service of the *South-Sea Company*, traded under, and were protected by the Company's *Fort* against the Insults of those who had conquered and laid that Country waste ; not to mention innumerable other Instances, where the Company have furnished *Private Ships* with *Wood*, *Water*, and *Provisions*, when they could get them no where else, and without which their *Voyages* must have been *unavoidably ruined*. Now what Returns has the Company met with here at home, for these and the like *Services* and *Civilities* abroad ? Why, the Company no sooner declare their Intentions to apply to Parliament for some Relief, for enabling them to keep and maintain

maintain those very *Forts* and *Castles* which have *protected* and *assisted* them in their *Trade* on the Coast of *Africa*, but an infinite *Noise* and *Clamour* is raised and propagated all over the *Kingdom*; and the *Private Traders* are alarmed and sent for from all parts, to come up to *London*. And for what? To make an *OUTCRY* against *MONOPOLIES*, and to *MISREPRESENT* and *CALUMNIATE* the *African Company*, as if they aimed at an *Exclusive Trade*, or indeed at any thing that has the least tendency to *load* their *Trade*, or to *abridge* them of any part of that *Liberty*, which they have enjoyed for many years past! But is this fair? or is it just? Or can any Man, that pretends to *act* upon the *Principles of Honour* and *Justice*, suffer himself to be *influenced* in any degree by such *Motives*?

It were an endless, as well as an unnecessary Task to confute the many *Calumnies* and *Aspersions* which have been thrown out against *the Company*. They are all of a piece with the foregoing; and by refuting *them*, all the rest must *fall and vanish of course*.

It shall therefore suffice to observe, by way of Conclusion, That *The Royal African Company of England* have as *clear* and *unquestionable* a *Right* and *Title* in and to their *Forts* and *Castles* in *Africa*, as any of the *Planters* have to their *Estates* and *Plantations* in *America*: And if so; it is then submitted, Whether, if the Company is to continue a *Trading Company*, they have not a *fair Claim* to some *Relief*, in *Ease* of that great and unequal Burden

den, which they have so long laboured under. At which
 they are to be dissolved, and their Forts and Castles
 put into other hands, Whether they may not justly in-
 sist upon a Consideration for parting with their Right
 and Property in them, in some measure suitable and
 proportionable to their real Worth?

To make an Overture against Monopolies, and
 to Misrepresent and Calumniate the African
 Company, as if they aimed at an Excessive Trade,
 or indeed at any thing that has the least tendency
 to load their Trade, or to oppress them of any part
 of that Liberty which has been enjoyed for many
 Years past: But is this fair, or is it just? Or can
 any Man, that pretends to act upon the Principles
 of Honour and Justice, suffer himself to be impos-
 sed in any Degree by such Insinuations?

It were an endless, as well as an unnecessary Task
 to confute the many Calumnies and Aspersions which
 have been thrown out against the Company. They are
 all of a piece with the rest, and by repeating
 them, all the rest are confirmed.

It shall therefore be the way of
 Conclusion, That the African Company of
 England have as clear and unquestionable a Right
 and Title in and to their Forts and Castles in Africa
 as any of the Planters have to their Estates
 and Plantations in America: And if so, it is their
 undoubted Right, Whether the Company is to continue
 or no, they have a fair Claim to
 some Relief, in Case of that great and unequal Bur-